



Redmond Fire Department
15670 NE 85th St.
Redmond, WA 98052
(425) 556-2220

INFORMATION SHEET

PREVENTABLE RESPONSE TO FIRE ALARMS (Redmond Municipal Code Section No. 15.06.18)

Because of an increasing burden of fire department responses to buildings with alarm systems, the Redmond City Council has adopted an ordinance charging fees for alarms which are considered preventable. The intent is to encourage maintenance and needed modification of alarm systems and to discourage careless acts that result in alarm activation. This, in turn, should increase the availability of fire department resources to respond to legitimate emergencies.

Such alarms generally include those caused by:

1. Improper type, installation, sensitivity, or maintenance of automatic detectors.
2. Improper installation (including unapproved or incompatible components) or maintenance of fire alarm systems including systems with no apparent reasons for repetitious alarms.
3. Erroneous transmission of an alarm including the reporting of trouble signals by fire alarm monitoring companies.
4. Work on a fire system or automatic extinguishing system connected to an alarm system when **reasonable steps** were not taken to prevent reporting of an alarm to the fire department.
5. Fire drills or tests of alarm or extinguishing systems when reasonable steps were not taken to prevent reporting of an alarm to the fire department.
6. Work including painting, welding, cleaning, cooking, dust producing or other activities which could activate a fire alarm detector.
7. Smoke or fumes resulting from closed fireplace dampers, cooking activities, smoking of tobacco products, etc., including opening a door to a corridor equipped with detectors for the purpose of ventilating such smoke or fumes.

A (per hour) fee will be charged for the time incurred to respond to and process each preventable response to a fire alarm. This cost includes operating expenses of at least 1 fire department pumper apparatus, not less than 3 personnel, and administrative costs. This fee shall also be incurred for failure to provide a required Fire Watch in accordance with Redmond Municipal Code Section 15.06.18. **As of February 1, 2007, the fee is \$332.35.**

Problematic systems (3 or more preventable system malfunctions/maintenance-related activations in a 30 calendar day period) may be subject to additional fees.

Appeals of fees for preventable responses must be filed by the building owner with the Fire Marshal within 15 calendar days after receipt of the Preventable Fire Alarm Response Report.

International Fire Code Section 907.20.5 states that the building owner is responsible for ensuring that the fire alarm system is maintained in an operable condition at all times. This includes all test and maintenance required to insure all sensory mechanisms and components of alarms systems shall be adjusted or otherwise protected to suppress false signals so that alarms will not be activated by impulses due to transient pressure changes, electrical power surges or failures or restoration after failure, radio frequency interference, short flashes of light, normal room temperature changes, effects of wind rattling or vibrating doors or windows, vehicular noises, or other causes unrelated to genuine signals.

Questions should be referred to the Fire Prevention Division at 425 556-2236. Our direct mailing address is: Redmond Fire Dept, Fire Prevention Division, Attn: MS-1NFD Preventable Response, P. O. Box 97010, Redmond, WA 98073-9710